

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A facsimile device that transmits image information to a destination, comprising:

an electronic-mail control unit used for transmitting the image information in an electronic-mail

10 format to said destination through a computer network;

a real-time network control unit used for transmitting the image information to said destination while said facsimile device and said destination are connected on line through the computer network; and

15 a destination table, to which a destination address and a transmission method are registered

respectively for each destination and each destination address, said destination address being used for transmitting the image information through the computer

20 network, said transmission method indicating one of said electronic-mail control unit and said real-time network control unit,

wherein said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination address by use of
25 either said electronic-mail control unit or said real-

time network control unit indicated by said transmission method if said destination address is specified as the destination.

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2. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
1, further comprising a facsimile control unit used for
10 transmitting the image information to the destination
through a telephone line network by following a fixed
facsimile transmission procedure, wherein said facsimile
device registers a destination number or the destination
address, for said each destination, and the transmission
15 method for said each destination address, in said
destination table, said destination number being used
for transmitting the image information through the
telephone line network.

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3. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
1, further comprising a transmission specifying unit
25 specifying either said electronic-mail control unit or

said real-time network control unit, wherein said
facsimile device sets the transmission method
corresponding to said destination address, to said
transmission specifying unit, switches said transmission
5 method by using said transmission specifying unit if
necessary, and transmits the image information to said
destination address by use of either said electronic-
mail control unit or said real-time network control unit
specified by said transmission specifying unit.

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4. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
15 1, wherein said destination table includes a first table,
to which the transmission method is registered for said
each destination, and a second table, to which the
transmission method is registered for each predetermined
condition, and said facsimile device transmits the image
20 information to said destination address by using said
transmission method registered in said second table as a
first priority if a predetermined condition is detected.

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5. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
4, further comprising a document-size detecting unit
detecting a document size of a document, wherein said
facsimile device registers said document size as the
5 predetermined condition, and determines the transmission
method according to said document size.

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6. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
4, wherein said facsimile device registers a value of
said destination address as the predetermined condition,
and determines the transmission method according to said
15 value of the destination address.

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7. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
4, wherein said facsimile device registers a data size
of the image information as the predetermined condition,
and determines the transmission method according to said
data size.

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8. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
4, further comprising a significance specifying unit
specifying a degree of significance of a document,
wherein said facsimile device registers the degree of
5 significance of the document as the predetermined
condition, and determines the transmission method
according to said degree of significance if said degree
of significance of the document is specified by said
significance specifying unit.

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9. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
15 4, wherein said facsimile device registers a network
condition of said computer network as the predetermined
condition, and determines the transmission method
according to said network condition.

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10. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
4, wherein said facsimile device registers a global
25 address communication as the predetermined condition,

and determines the transmission method depending on whether said facsimile device performs the global address communication.

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11. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
2, wherein said destination table stores the destination
10 number, a first destination address used for
transmitting the image information in the electronic-
mail format through the computer network, and a second
destination address used for transmitting the image
information while said facsimile device and said
15 destination are connected on line through the computer
network, for said each destination, wherein said
facsimile device displays said destination number, said
first destination address and said second destination
address, makes a user select one of said destination
number, said first destination address and said second
20 destination address, and transmits the image information
to the destination number or the destination address
selected by the user, by using one of said electronic-
mail control unit and said real-time network control
25 unit that corresponds to said destination number or said

destination address selected by the user.

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12. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
1, further comprising a document-size specifying unit
specifying a document size of a document to be
transmitted, wherein said destination table stores a
10 first destination address used for transmitting the
image information in the electronic-mail format through
the computer network, and a second destination address
used for transmitting the image information while said
facsimile device and the destination are connected on
15 line through the computer network, for said each
destination, and said facsimile device transmits the
document to said destination by use of either said
electronic-mail control unit or said real-time network
control unit corresponding to the document size of said
20 document specified by said document-size specifying unit
to be outputted at said destination.

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13. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
12, wherein said facsimile device transmits the document
to said destination by use of said electronic-mail
control unit if the document size of said document is A4.

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14. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
10 2, wherein said facsimile device transmits the image
information to said destination address by use of either
said electronic-mail control unit or said real-time
network control unit corresponding to said destination
address, if said destination address is specified as the
15 destination, and said transmission method is not
registered in said destination table.

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15. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
14, wherein said facsimile device transmits the image
information to said destination address by use of said
real-time network control unit if said destination
25 address is a local address.

16. The facsimile device as claimed in claim
2, wherein said facsimile device calculates a data size
of the image information read from a document, and
transmits the image information to said destination by
5 use of either said electronic-mail control unit or said
real-time network control unit corresponding to said
data size.

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17. A facsimile device that transmits image
information to a destination, comprising:

an electronic-mail control unit used for
15 transmitting the image information in an electronic-mail
format to said destination through a computer network;
a real-time network control unit used for
transmitting the image information to said destination
while said facsimile device and said destination are
20 connected on line through the computer network; and
a transmission specifying unit specifying one
of said electronic-mail control unit and said real-time
network control unit as a communication control unit in
accordance with a destination address of said
25 destination,

wherein said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination address by use of the communication control unit specified by said transmission specifying unit in a case in which said 5 destination address is selected.

10 18. A facsimile device that transmits image information to a destination, comprising:

a facsimile control unit used for transmitting the image information to said destination through a telephone line network by following a fixed facsimile 15 transmission procedure;

an electronic-mail control unit used for transmitting the image information in an electronic-mail format to said destination through a computer network;

20 a real-time network control unit used for transmitting the image information to said destination while said facsimile device and said destination are connected on line through the computer network; and

25 a direct/memory transmission specifying unit specifying a transmission method in accordance with a destination address of said destination, for each

destination, said transmission method indicating one of direct transmission and memory transmission,

wherein said direct/memory transmission specifying unit can further specify usage of said 5 electronic-mail control unit or said real-time network control unit for each transmission method, and said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination by use of either said electronic-mail control unit or said real-time network control unit 10 corresponding to said transmission method if said destination address is selected.

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19. The facsimile device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said facsimile device transmits the image information to said destination address, by use of said real-time network control unit if the transmission 20 method specified by said direct/memory transmission specifying unit is the direct transmission, or said electronic-mail control unit if said transmission method is the memory transmission.

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20. A method of selecting a transmission method for transmitting image information from a facsimile device to a destination, comprising the steps of:

5 specifying the transmission method, that is, one of an electronic-mail transmission method and a real-time transmission method, for each destination address used for transmitting the image information through a computer network; and

10 transmitting the image information to a destination address through the computer network by use of the transmission method corresponding to said destination address if said destination address is specified as the destination.

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21. A method of selecting a transmission method for transmitting image information from a facsimile device to a destination, comprising the steps of:

registering a destination number used for transmitting the image information through a telephone line network or a destination address used for

transmitting the image information through a computer network, for each destination in a destination table;

registering a transmission method, that is, one of an electronic-mail transmission method and a 5 real-time transmission method, for each destination address registered in said destination table; and

transmitting the image information to the destination address by use of the transmission method corresponding to said destination address, if said 10 destination address is specified as the destination.

15 22. The method as claimed in claim 21,
further comprising the steps of:

setting the transmission method corresponding
the destination address, if said destination address is
specified as the destination;

20 switching the transmission method if
necessary; and

transmitting the image information to said
destination address by use of said transmission method.